

THE LAST 1243 K 2
Dying Speech and Confession,
OF THE UNFORTUNATE
MALEFACTORS,

Executed this Day before the Debtors Door, Newgate.
R. Coleman alias Middleton



The Last Dying Speech, &c.

ON Friday a report was made to his Majesty in Council, of the felon prisoners condemn'd in October last, when William Coleman alias Middleton, and William Osland, were ordered for execution on the Wednesday following.

William Coleman, alias Middleton, was indicted for being an ill designed and disorderly person, of a malicious and wicked disposition, and not regarding the laws and statutes of this realm, nor the pains and penalties therein contained, after the first day of June, 1723, to wit, on the first day of September last, in the city of London, with a certain pistol loaded with gunpowder and a leaden ball, which the said William then and there had and held in his hand, and then and there unlawfully, maliciously, and feloniously shot at him the said Daniel Webb, in the King's highway.

And William Osland was indicted for aiding and assisting the prisoner Coleman.

It appeared on the trial of these offenders, that on the day mentioned the officers of justice having received information against a person who goes by the

name of Stagers as a notorious offender, and likewise as being a deserter, him by chance in Smithfield.

It is an old saying, and a true, that a guilty mind needs no accuser: young Stagers no sooner beheld than he took to his heels, and ran. They pursued him into Chick-lane, where he gave a signal.

Upon this Coleman, Osland, and the other of the gang, rushed out and attacked them.

They made use of the most dreadful imprecations, and Coleman fired a pistol, wounding one of the police officer in the hand.

After a smart engagement, Coleman and Osland were secured, but Stagers and the rest of the gang, effected their escape.

Being thus apprehended upon the spot, the officers swore positively that Coleman fired the loaded pistol, and that Osland aided and assisted him.

Coleman, in his defence, said, that he did not know at the time that the pistol was loaded.

Osland said, that he ran out to see what was the matter, and had no concern in the fray.



The Judge summed up the evidence in a very impartial manner, and the Jury, after a short consultation, found both of them

GUILTY—DEATH.

William Coleman, alias Middleton, was born in the parish of St. Luke's, of poor but honest and industrious parents, who did all in their power to train up their son to honesty, but he getting into bad company, followed those courses, which, in the prime of life, brought him to an untimely end.

William Osland, aged about twenty-four, born of honest and sober parents, who did every thing in their power to train up their son to virtuous principles; but all their efforts proved abortive; he got into bad company, followed dishonest ways, and at length ended his life at the gallows.

Coleman, at the place of execution, delivered the following paper:

" Good People,

" You are here assembled to see an unfortunate man, in the prime of life, suffer a shameful and untimely death, for having violated the laws of his country, and I hope you will take warning by my untimely fate.

" To young men I particularly address myself, begging that they will avoid Sabbath-breaking, gaming, and idleness, the sure and certain road to ruin in this

world, and everlasting misery in the next. I die in peace and charity with every one, forgiving those who have injured me, as I hope myself to be forgiven, and I beg the prayers of all here present for my departing soul.

Osland on the night before his execution, sent the following letter to his wife:

" Dear Wife,

" I write these few lines, to beg that you will see my poor remains decently buried, and to assure you, that I have a lively hope of soon being in the arms of a blessed Redeemer. And that we may meet in everlasting happiness

" Is the prayer of your

" Dying Husband,

" William Osland."

On the morning of execution they went up to the chapel, and there received the sacrament.

They then came into the press yard, and their irons being knocked off, were pinioned, and led to the scaffold, the bell tolling in a solemn manner.

Being tied to the fatal beam, they joined in prayer with the worthy clergyman who attended them, in the most devout manner. Prayers being ended, he recommended their souls to heaven, and took his leave. when the scaffold sunk, and launched them into eternity.



A particular Account of Mrs. Phipoe, and her dying Behaviour.

ON Monday morning, soon after eight o'clock, Mary Benson, alias Maria Theresa Phipoe, cast and condemned on Friday, for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, was brought forth for execution.

She ascended the scaffold, contrary to expectation, in a calm and resigned manner, holding in her hands a white handkerchief, and walked in a solemn pace to almost the extremity of the scaffold, and standing there a short time, turned her face towards Smithfield, betraying not the least anxiety or wish to conceal her person.

She was dressed in a long white bedgown, had a white ribbon in her cap, and her dress, which was compleatly white, exhibited a neat and clean appearance.

Being a Roman Catholick, she was attended by a clergyman of that religion, with whom she joined in prayer, apparently with every sign of religion and penitence.

Mr. Villette also attended, and to him, though of a different religion, she paid great respect.

She sunk into eternity about a quarter past eight, and died with few convulsive struggles.

She appeared to be upwards of forty years of age, a lusty good looking woman, but had no claim to beauty.

While Mr. Justice Perryn was passing sentence, Mrs. Phipoe said, "Speak out, sir, I am not afraid." When he came to the concluding words, "The Lord have mercy on your soul," she sneered, apparently in a bitter spirit, and said, I have no confidence in his mercy.

She requested to have her property restored to her, and would not take paper, alledging, that her money was all in gold.

On being searched when taken out of Court, a large bottle of laudanum was found in her pocket by Mr. Kirby, when she declared, with horrid imprecations, she would not die in shame.

On the Saturday, after conviction, her behaviour was dreadful, being one continued scene of horror, rage, and black despair.

However, on Sunday she grew calm, and appeared more resigned to her unhappy fate.

